MONTEREY NEWS

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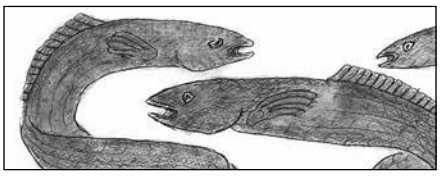
Maureen Banner

People went home to their long-overdue lunch, secure in the knowledge that democracy continues to prevail in Monterey.
Town Meeting Above, and on page 2

Her clothes were colorful and tastefully distasteful, her voice was a roar that offended one's ears, but it was almost impossible to stop listening.
I Met My Guru page 7



Slippery American Eels page 24

Burning yard waste releases a number of harmful substances that affect human health, and can be just as harmful as cigarette smoke.
Re-think Open Burning page 11

The Monterey Community Center has an ideal section of lawn for the croquet course. Won't you join us on Sundays?
Summer Croquet page 13

Rookie Baseball page 22

Bark Stripper page 28

"Cowbirds are free lovers. They are neither polygamous nor polyandrous—just promiscuous." —Forbush, 1926
Cowbirds page 20

Kind of long-winded, plenty of back and forth discussion (some would say arguments), a few loose ends left to follow up, good coffee, and locally baked doughnuts. It was a rousing reminder of who we are in Monterey as a community. We are, in fact, many communities.
Select Board Corner page 30

Or you might want to go the very old-fashioned route. Lie down on a blanket under a clear night sky this summer and identify—that is, make up—some new star pictures.
Star Light, Star Bright page 19

A party stated that the sign was there at 2 p.m., but when he came back at 5 p.m. it was gone. Yup, a sign of the times.
Police Report page 25

I think that Hume needs to step back and expand their vision to include all of the residents of this community.
Hume's Exemption page 18

As I move down the misty lake
A snapper, all snout and eyes,
Breaks the surface, hastily withdraws.
Farther on, another does the same.
Paddle Perturbation page 17

Re-Psychled, Knox Gallery page 15

Kit Patten, on his way to the transfer station, saw "the tiniest, tiniest bear cub, about 15 inches long."
Wildlife Report page 26

Town Meeting Report

Spring in Monterey is fairly predictable. Each year we look forward to tulips blooming, trees leafing out, birds singing, and participating in the annual town meeting. The meeting this year was one of the longest in this writer's memory, lasting nearly five hours, and most of the 113 voters made it all the way to the end.

Getting Going

The gavel was pounded at precisely 9:30 a.m., by Moderator Mark Makuc. The town clerk, Terry Walker, began with the reading of the warrant, and thankfully there was a motion to dispense with this since it was a very long warrant. Mark Makuc asked for a moment of silence in honor of those Monterey citizens who had served the town and passed away in the last year. These included Leona Chamberlin, Muriel Lazzarini, Nick Wool, and Don Amstead. Then select board member Kenn Basler recognized those who had served the town on various boards and were now retiring. There was a round of applause for Maggie Leonard from the planning board, Dave Dempsey from the conservation commission and Michael Banner from the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House.

Before getting to the business of the meeting, Mark Makuc reminded the group that only those registered in Monterey are allowed to speak or to vote. Apparently, there have been rumors about such shenanigans as people sharing or tearing their voting cards in half for non-registered attendees and it was made clear that this is not acceptable.

Town Expenses

Article 1, to hear and act on the reports of all officers, agents, and committees of the town was passed over, and we moved onto Article 2, which stipulated the salaries for paid elected officials. This was quickly passed. Article 3 was about the town budget with a request for $2,243,574 for operating expenses. The moderator read

off each line item and relatively few holds were placed for discussion. Susan Cooper asked why the amount for elections was decreased by $5,586 and the town clerk responded that there was still money left over from last year so this balanced out the amount needed.

The question of funding an assistant town clerk was brought up by former town clerk Barbara Swann. This line item was funded at zero and Ms. Swann indicated that an assistant is essential if the town clerk is away and a time sensitive matter comes up. As she did last year, Ms. Swann made a motion to change this line item from $0 to $1,000. Erica Stern asked the town clerk if she felt it was problematic not having an assistant and Ms. Walker responded that it would be helpful. The amendment to line item 165 was passed.

Michael Johnson posed a question about line item 195, regarding the town report. He asked, "If we do this, will we have a town report on time? Select board chair Kenn Basler responded that the town report takes much longer to put together than anticipated since they are often waiting for reports to come in and more money will not speed up the process.

The last hold on the budget had to do with veteran's benefits, which were reduced by $7,000. Michael Johnson asked who was responsible for decreasing this and Kenn Basler responded that this is up to the US Veteran's Administration, not the town. With no further discussion, a vote was taken on the budget and it was passed, as did Article 4 regarding the use of revolving funds for departmental operations.

Library Expansion Project

Article 5 concerned the proposed renovation of the Monterey Library. Moderator Makuc stepped down for this article, citing a conflict of interest as he is also the library director, and Peter Murkett was approved by the assembly to be moderator in his place. Kenn Basler also recused himself as he is a library trustee as well as a select board member. Lisa Smyle, the chair of the board of library trustees began with a brief presentation about the needs of the library.

The current building is now eighty-six years old, and has an asbestos roof, a wet basement, various structural problems, and is not up to code. Perhaps the problem that most library patrons are familiar with is the creepy, inaccessible bathroom in the basement, with no heat or hot water. The board of library trustees have formulated a long-range planning process and received a planning and design grant by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). A project manager has been hired and the building plans have been submitted to the state.

The article asked for an appropriation of $3,100,000, but the project will not move forward unless a construction grant is received from the MBLC, which is projected to be no less than $1,800,000.

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With two-thirds of the funding covered by the MBLC, the cost to the town would be $1,300,000. The Friends of the Monterey Library have already raised $40,000 toward the cost of the renovations, and additional grants are being pursued. Ms. Smyle said that this grant may be "our one and only shot" at making much needed renovations to the library. The funds would be borrowed and paid back over a fifteen-year period. The grants are expected to be awarded and ranked in July and construction could start in spring 2018. The effect on residents' taxes would be approximately $.25/thousand and on a $400,000 house this would come to $100 a year in additional taxes. (To read the spreadsheet of the projected finances for this project, go to the library website, *MontereyMALibrary.org*. The spreadsheet is currently on the front page.)

Smyle also noted that if the grant is not awarded the library is still in need of significant repairs, which would be costly and for which there is no state funding. She said, "We need a library that is accessible to everyone in town," and praised the vision and dedication of library director, Mark Makuc, for getting the project to this point.

There was relatively little discussion about such a big expenditure. Susan Cooper asked why so much additional space was needed, to which board member Mickey Jervas responded that the renovated library will include spaces for children, teens, and community use. Mark Makuc added that, "The state requires us to be a real library" that welcomes people of all ages and abilities. Barbara Swann inquired as to whether there would be space in the library for the historical society artifacts, and was assured by Lisa Smyle that this was part of the plan. Stanley Ross asked where the library might stand in the queue of grants being awarded, which Lisa Smyle answered, saying that while this was not known right now she has heard that, "We are known as the little library without a bathroom," which might give us some priority.

With no further discussion, the voting took place. A two-thirds vote by secret ballot was required, so the attendees lined up to trade in their green voting cards for pink ones and get a slip of paper with either a "yes" or "no" on it. They put their votes into a cardboard box manned by Ray Tryon. No danger of malfunctioning voting equipment or hanging chads in Monterey! Once the votes were counted, the appropriation for the library renovations passed overwhelmingly, with a count of 96 to 5.

School Budget

Mark Makuc once again assumed the role of moderator and moved onto Article 6, which had to do with funding for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) budget. The warrant indicated that both the finance committee and the select board disapproved the article and this was a rare occurrence since Monterey is almost always supportive of the school district. Kenn Basler rose to explain the reasoning behind this recommendation, saying that since he and his wife were former educators, it was a hard decision to make. However, he felt it was necessary due to the process that has been used to close the Egremont School. He said that this was "such a slap in the face," and an example of "leadership at its worst." The decision to close the Egremont School struck close to home since the Monterey School is also closed. Basler went on to say that the assessment to the SBRSD had gone up $100,000 each year and that our students have a forty-five minute ride to school. The select board has met with some of our legislators, including Smitty Pignatelli, and have been encouraged to leave the district.

Former school committee representative, Maria Rundle.

Maria Rundle, former school committee member, spoke in defense of the budget. She said that the Egremont School teacher had retired and that there was no enrollment for the upcoming year. Rundle went on to say, "our landscape has radically changed," citing a projected 38% decline in enrollment in Berkshire County schools in the next ten years. Funds need to be allocated for technology, building maintenance, and for mandatory testing. She also spoke about the incomprehensible formula for assessing towns, indicating that it is based on the number of children in the district and not property values, adding, "We're scraping it together with assessments that just don't make sense."

She also clarified that the Egremont School has not been closed but that the program there has been suspended. Rundle said that while it might make sense to take a principled stand on the school budget, if it is not supported then the state steps in and local control is lost. The district would be funded at a decreased level and programs such as Spanish in the elementary schools would be eliminated. Rundle said, "Voting against this is working against our kids." She urged people to make their voices heard, to get involved, and to attend meetings. Jon Sylbert responded by saying that in 2007, the state took over the SBRSD following a dispute regarding appointed vs. elected school committee members. He said that at that time, basically nothing changed and the district was advised to work out the problems. The agreement with the district calls for four out of the five towns to vote to close a school, and that, "The spirit of the agreement has been subverted." He added, "We need to show the school committee that we make the decisions here, not there."

Current school committee member, Mary Ellen Brown, once again posed the question of why we no longer have a school in Monterey, and said it is important for children to spend their first year of school close to home. Maria Rundle responded, "We moved every stone we could to get kids for our school," but were only able to come up with two four-year-olds. She also reminded the group that, "The question at hand is whether we are going to provide education and transportation for our kids next year." Barbara Swann said

that since there were no teachers hired for the Egremont or Monterey Schools, "What sane parent would enroll their child in a school with no teacher?" Dave Hastings, outgoing superintendent of the SBRSD, said that since there was no registration for Egremont and no requests for Monterey, "It would be irresponsible to hire a teacher for an empty classroom." There was some more back and forth discussion and finally a vote was taken by a show of pink cards. The article to support the school budget failed 30 to 64. However, Article 8, to pay for the loan and interest on the SBRSD roof and boiler bond passed.

This was followed by a number of less controversial matters and Articles 9 through 13 were approved to fund various items such as a truck, compressor, and a CPR machine.

Lake Garfield Milfoil

The discussion got lively again with Article 14, a request for $50,000 to pay for milfoil harvesting in Lake Garfield. Steve Snyder, chair of the Lake Garfield Working Group, started off the discussion with two disclaimers: "This has nothing to do with herbicides," and, "It's not about Lake Buel vs. Lake Garfield." Dominic Stucker from the conservation committee, came prepared with two very large maps showing just how much the milfoil has grown between 2015 and 2016, increasing from twelve to twenty acres. He said that while there is no simple solution, doing nothing will allow the milfoil to grow unchecked. This is a problem since milfoil can crowd out habitats, reduce the oxygen levels in the water, and make boating difficult. He described a plan to work on the more lightly infested areas first to try to contain the milfoil, then to work on the dense patches in subsequent years.

Stucker indicated that since Lake Garfield is a shared resource, it makes sense for the town to assume this cost rather than just the lake-area residents. Jerry Raab suggested an amendment to the article including the phrase, "… the sum not to be used for the purchase and application of herbicides," and Joe Baker further proposed to change this to the "purchase or application of herbicides." Further discussion ensued about future costs, efforts that have been made so far

to deal with the problem, and the need to look at failing or malfunctioning septic systems, which may be contributing to the milfoil growth. Steve Weisz said this article is "an attempt to preserve the jewel that is Lake Garfield," and indicated that the town will be applying for grants to fund ongoing maintenance of the lake. Gary Shaw said that it makes sense to vote for something that benefits us all. When the voice vote was taken, Article 14, with its amendments, passed overwhelmingly.

Community Center Budget

Article 15, regarding funds for the annual town audit, passed easily as well as did Article 16, which appropriated $8,000 for the operation of the newly opened Monterey Community Center. Mary Makuc acknowledged the many volunteers who put in untold hours in its construction, particularly Joe Baker, Michael Banner, and Roy Carwile.

The pace picked up again after that, with Articles 17 through 29 being passed without discussion.

Curtis Road Bridge Funding

Article 30 asked the voters to authorize the select board to apply for, accept, and expend a MassWorks grant in the sum of $1,000,000 to replace the deteriorating bridge on Curtis Road. Kenn Basler explained that the town is looking at two different options to fund the bridge work and whichever one comes in first will be used. There was some discussion about allowing the state to fund the project, which may take some time, or seeking more immediate funding. Gary Shaw wondered what would happen if there were a fire at Gould Farm and the bridge was unusable. Fire Chief Shawn Tryon replied that at the present time the fire trucks can't use the bridge. In the end, Article 30 was passed, as was Article 31 regarding other state and federal grants.

Zoning Bylaws

The next few items concerned changes to the Monterey Zoning Bylaws. Article 32 proposed some changes and additions to the definitions of dwellings, multi- and single-family dwellings, and secondary dwellings. Article 33 proposed that no building lot, defined by two acres and two hundred feet of road frontage, could contain more than one primary and one secondary dwelling. Both of these passed. Article 34, regarding multifamily dwellings, was a bit more complicated. The proposal was to increase the lot size for each dwelling with a maximum of six dwelling units per building, but Susan Cooper and others questioned the drastic change in acreage. Kenn Basler suggested that the article be rejected so it could be looked at again and the voters agreed.

Article 35 was pretty straightforward and voters passed the proposal to change the number of dwelling units in the site plan review section of the bylaws from two to three. Article 36 proposed a change in the length of time signs announcing public events could be displayed. Since the original bylaw stipulating a fourteen-day display period was largely being ignored, the proposal for a thirty-day period was passed.

Articles 37 to 39 concerned routine matters that were quickly passed, and Articles 40 and 41 were passed over as they were not applicable this year.

Steven Weisz

Our thanks to Maggie Leonard who has retired from the planning board after many years.

Herbicides Resolution

The flagging energy of the meeting participants was revitalized by Bonner McAllester's citizen petition to ban chemical herbicides from Lake Garfield for five years. An amendment was proposed by Ron Rothschild to change this to one year, so as not to limit what the Lake Garfield Working Group is doing, but this motion failed. McAllester reminded the group that this was a non-binding resolution and since the lake is actually a "great pond" of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the state is the only one that can actually make decisions about herbicides. She said this was an opportunity to say we do not want chemicals in the lake. Kenn Basler said that it was also an opportunity to give this message to the Lake Garfield Working Group. Dominic Stucker stated that, "All strategies are part of a social context, and the LGWG will take the wishes of everyone into consideration."

Virgil Stucker reminded people that thirty years ago Monterey banned the use of the chemical chlordane which was later banned in Massachusetts and finally in the entire United States. He said this was another opportunity for Monterey to light the way, referencing a film of that same name from many years past. The resolution was resoundingly passed.

2017 Town Elections

The town was once again fortunate to have candidates for all open offices. We should all be appreciative of people who offer to serve the town, whether they were incumbants or new candidates, and whether they won or lost. 153 votes were cast. The tallies below do not include unmarked, or blank, votes for some offices.

Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)
Don Coburn 64
George Cain 82

Select Board (3 years)
Kenn Basler 104
Michael Johnson 46

Town Clerk (1 year)
MaryPaul Yates 104
Hillel Maximon 33

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Gary Shaw 129

Board of Assessors (1 year)
Donald Hopkins 122

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Robert Lazzarini 131

Board of Health (3 years)
John Makuc 139

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
David Brown 136

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
John Higgins 122
Shannon Amidon Castille 127

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc 140

Parks Commission (3 years)
Pam Johnson 125

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)
Pat Salomon 117
Don Coburn 117

Town Treasurer (2 years)
Rebecca Wolin 123

Tree Warden (1 year)
Winston Wilson 133
Kevin Fitzpatrick (write-in) 2

There were three ballot questions.

#1 Should the town clerk be an appointed position? Yes-82, No-70.

#2 Should the treasurer be an appointed position? Yes-88, No-63.

#3 Should the town authorize borrowing for an expansion of the library? Yes-130, No-17.

Since Article 43 did not require a vote, the long meeting was finally adjourned at 2:08 and people went home to their long overdue lunch, secure in the knowledge that democracy continues to prevail in Monterey.

—Laurie Shaw

Town meeting photos by Maureen Banner unless otherwise noted.

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Broadband Report

The Broadband Committee feels that it is near the end of a long journey. The following is a summation of where we've been, where we are, and where we hope to be in a month—yes, by the end of June. While the broadband committee tried to be as flexible as possible, the end result is that Monterey is caught between two proposals that are at opposite ends of the broadband controversy.

Old versus new probably sums up the situation best. For the old approach, the state, through its broadband arm, Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), is pushing hard for Monterey to accept a proposal from Charter Communications. There would be no cost to the town, 96% coverage, and multiple tiers for residents to choose from. Sounds great, but as explained below, the broadband committee is committed not only to service today but into the future. Charter's technology is based on copper wire and clearly the future is fiber optics. Today cable is adequate, but given the past ten years, with the technology leaps that have been accomplished, the future is what we need to prepare for.

The new approach is Fiber Connect. This is a start up company, funded by a venture capitalist based in the Berkshires. You have already seen their trucks in Monterey as they began putting up fiber in the beginning of May, and you may be wondering, "Should I sign up with them?"

Here's where we are caught in the state's catch 22. Fiber Connect has already committed $1.5 million to wiring Monterey and Egremont, but their business plan calls for reaching 70% of residential lots, and we have committed to 96%. MBI has rejected them from the funding available to Monterey because they are new (due to limited track record and lack of capitalization) but we have argued that there are ways to protect the MBI investment through performance bonds. Their technology is what we see represents the future—fiber to the home—which will be capable of expanding and growing as new and exciting electronic needs are developed.

So…we continue to work with the state, we have meetings set with our state representatives, Fiber Connect, and Charter. We are near the end and everything points to a final decision by the end of June.

Our opportunities as of the beginning of June are:

1. We could do nothing. Fiber Connect, as a private company, would continue to move forward with their plans to wire up close to 70% of the town via fiber optics, over the next 12 months or so. That would leave about 30% of the town "dark," unless Fiber Connect realizes enough revenue to continue. That would be up to them. This would create a "digital divide" in Monterey.

2. We actively negotiated with Frontier Communications through the four-town request-for-proposals (RFP) released eight months ago. After a number of meetings, we felt that although the model offered fiber to the home, which is what we were looking for, we could not justify the cost to the town, or the subscribers, since we had other proposals at a much lower or no cost.

After analysis, the Frontier proposal would have cost the town over $5 million during the fifteen-year contract, which would have to be paid by all the the town taxpayers or individual subscribers, in addition to the normal subscriber fee. Monterey has the densest population and least road miles of the four towns. We took the position that our costs should be less. Frontier had agreed to negotiate each town's cost separately. (Initially, Frontier treated all the towns equally as to cost.) We tried to lower this by asking Frontier to tie the cost to the "take rate" (the percentage of potential subscribers who "take" the service). In other words, as the subscriber total increased, the amount the town owed would decrease, but Frontier rejected this. The other towns realized our dilemma and were willing to let us withdraw from the negotiations with Frontier and, graciously, would allow us back in if our other options fell short.

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3. We issued a Monterey RFP back in January and as a result, we are negotiating directly with Fiber Connect. In this case, we would look to build out a minimum of 96% of the town (that is the minimum coverage required by MBI in order to receive state grant monies). This is the effort where MBI announced that Fiber Connect had not qualified. We plan to continue meeting with MBI to discuss the qualification process further...as we disagree with their approach to qualification.

4. We have evaluated the state "private provider" RFP and as of this time we have told the state that we are having trouble in moving forward with Charter. The MBI disagrees with us on this and we disagree with their rationale. We have been told at least twice that the governor's office feels that if cable is good enough for 95% of the state, it should be good enough for us. Perhaps we would have agreed twenty years ago when cable was rolling out as the latest, greatest thing. MBI's original focus, and the current and near-term future of broadband, is fiber-based communications—not coaxial copper cable. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the cable companies' primary focus is on controlled TV content distribution. This is a dying model, as more and more subscribers are "cutting the cord" to stream their content. Current data overwhelmingly shows the trend for subscribers from cable service to internet service providers.

Again, we are working towards a solution that will impact our town for the next fifteen-plus years. What is adequate today, based on what has happened over the past ten years, must be looked at in relation to the next ten years. Selecting an old and dying model for expediency, or because it was good enough for everyone else, is not how we look at it. In fact, if someone needs to lead the way towards the next evolutionary technology, why not us?

So…We continue fighting the good fight, pushing back against the state, remaining positive and hopeful that in the end we will procure for the Town of Monterey a high-speed solution that will take us into and support the next digital revolution.

—Kenn Basler
Monterey Broadband Committee

Council on Aging
Summer Events

The Mt. Everett Culinary Program hosted sixteen Monterey seniors at lunch on May 10. As expected, the food and the service were great. We'll plan on enjoying this again during the next school year.

Come one, come all, no age limit: Pittsfield Suns versus Worcester Bravehearts, at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield, on Sunday, July 16. The game begins at 5 p.m, with the gates opening at 4. Take yourselves out to the ballgame.

Five dollars to the council on aging in town hall by July 1 gets you a grandstand seat and a meal voucher for that day. If you have questions, call Maryellen Brown at 528-1598.

Still to be announced: A tour and lunch at Chesterwood on a Thursday in August.

—Kay Purcell

Monterey Graduates
Ella Carlson

The following profile is just a brief snapshot of the future plans of one of the high school seniors currently living in Monterey.

Ella Carlson is the daughter of Franny Huberman and Bob Carlson of Monterey. Ella, currently a student at Monument Mountain Regional High School, will be attending Smith College in Northampton, MA this fall. The graduation ceremony will take place on June 4, at 1:30 p.m., in the Koussevitzky Shed at Tanglewood, in Lenox, MA.

Do you know of any other high school seniors graduating this year that live in Monterey? Contact Marya Makuc at makuc.marya@gmail.com to include a profile for the July issue.

—Marya Makuc

Centering

1. At the center, always
kaleidescope and mirror.
A seed of light,
even if it's a black hole.

Bonsai Cox

I Met My Guru in Brooklyn and...
A Memorial to Carol Husten, 1932 to 2016

She was a quirky kind of woman, long hair down her back tied into a cross between a braid and a ponytail. Her clothes were colorful and tastefully distasteful, her voice was a roar that offended one's ears, but it was almost impossible to stop listening. And if that wasn't intriguing enough, there was something about her that said I've lived life, I live life, and I will continue with every part of me to fulfill my dreams and dreams of others.

I didn't like her right away. She was too much for me. Her name was Carol.

As time went by, we became friends, and I was able to see beyond her quirky ways.

When she told a story, she took me on her journey, and I was grateful for that. Carol knew we came from different worlds, and she knew that I may never sail the seven seas like her, but she loved to take me along into her story.

There was something about this quirky woman that when I looked into her eyes, I felt my heart, and the strange thing is, I think she felt the same when she looked into my eyes—she felt her heart.

Carol, my friend, my guru, you taught me about living my life, making my choices, and you always had a pure heart for me.

Life is odd, complex, and beautiful, but when you meet your guru in Brooklyn and she leads you to the mountaintops, then you know how extraordinary life can be.

—Wendy Benjamin

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Library News

Renovation Project

Thanks to everyone who supported the library construction project at the town meeting and at the election. We were able to send a clear message to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that Monterey is behind the project. Our thanks to all the professionals who helped get us here, including Dan Pallotta of P3, our fearless and knowledgeable project manager; Tim Eagles of EDM and his team of designers and engineers who have given us a picture of what the future library will be and how it will work; and finally, Clark Rowell of UniBank who was able to explain the effect of this project on our taxes. This is a large project for Monterey, and the library building committee and the trustees are committed to doing this the right way and building a library that will make the town proud and last for many years.

The next step is up to the Board of Library Commissioners. On July 13, in just six weeks, the commissioners will meet and issue a list of those libraries awarded provisional grants. We hope to be in this first round. Since we have our local approval in hand, we would be able to start immediately with the architects in finalizing the design of the project. Over the winter we would hope to apply for building permits and other permits from the various state agencies. Two of those commissioners are from western Massachusetts and have visited and supported the Monterey Library over the years. They are aware of the support the Monterey Library has from the town and the enthusiasm can only help.

Annual Book Sale

Coming up on our calendar, on the last Saturday in July, the 29th, will be our annual book sale. As always, we are glad to accept donations to sell. We do ask that the books be in good condition—specifically no mildew and water damage. We do not accept foreign language books, textbooks, or magazines. We will give you a receipt of how many books were donated from the Friends of the Monterey Library which is a 501c3 organization. You may bring the books anytime the library is open, or contact us at montereylibrary@gmail.com to make other arrangements. Finally, the Friends of the Monterey Library have been hard at work sorting the donations all winter and will do so up to the sale, but they request all donations to be delivered no later than July 15 so they have time to do their final sorting and organizing. Thanks to everyone who, over the years, has helped so much and made it possible for the library to have children's programming and all the other extras the book sale has allowed us to do.

Summer Programs

Our usual summer programming schedule has been set. All you need to know is that on Saturday, July 1, Jim Snack, our favorite magician, will be back at 10:30 a.m., to entertain children of all ages, including grandparents. We will also have programs on Saturdays, July 8, 15, and 22, and on Saturdays, August 5 and 12. The Friends of the Library are being very generous this year in their support of the programming. The library will also start a summer children's reading program that will include incentives and prizes. Check out our website at montereymalibrary.org for details on all of the above, and look for more programs information in the July *Monterey News*.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMALibrary.org

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fri, june 9, 7pm
FREE MOVIE NIGHT!
MARY POPPINS
(There'll Be Popcorn, Too!)

sat, june 10, 7pm $20
$5 children under 12
"Under Milk Wood"
by dylan thomas
directed by benjamin luxon
with the sandisfield players

sat, june 24, 4pm
$10
Over There –
the great war
to end all wars
with Bill Cohn

june

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Nancy Johnson
Re-Pyschled
June 9 - July 22
Reception: June 10, 6-7:30pm

KNOX GALLERY
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Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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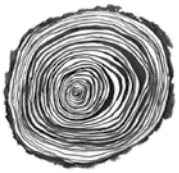

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Lake Garfield Working Group
June Update

Article 14: Milfoil Management

Leading up to the annual town meeting, the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held an informational meeting on May 1 for the purpose of discussing warrant article 14 on allocating $50,000 for "milfoil harvesting and containment." More than a dozen Monterey residents attended, and a productive exchange helped clarify the scope of the proposed article.

At the town meeting on May 6, the LGWG presented on Article 14, making the case for milfoil management in 2017, while emphasizing that management will be a multi-year process. The discussion that ensued led to an article amendment, making explicit that herbicides shall not be purchased and/or used in conjunction with related work. With this amendment, the article passed with a unanimous vote.

Request for Proposals

The LGWG then convened its regular monthly meeting at the town hall on May 15. At the top of the agenda was a discussion concerning the process to be followed in honoring the above commitment of the town to pay for professional services for milfoil harvesting and containment. In particular, members of the LGWG, with the help of town grant writer and conservation commission member Dennis Lynch, outlined key parameters and a timeline for the writing of a request for proposals (RFP) to be disseminated to companies interested in contracting for the work.

As milfoil harvesting is ideally conducted in May and June for best results, but at least before August when it is most dense, the LGWG requested that Dennis draft the RFP as quickly as possible, and decided to hold an extraordinary meeting on May 30 in town hall to finalize the RFP. In parallel, LGWG and select board member Steve Weisz is looking into securing the services of a certified procurement officer, a role that is essential to the RFP process.

Lake Survey and Community Engagement

In a continuing effort to understand community perspectives and engage participation in lake and watershed issues, the LGWG encourages all interested parties to fill out the Lake Garfield survey. The survey can be found in printed form in the town hall foyer, along with a box for completed surveys. Please take five minutes to make your voice heard by the end of June.

Centering

2. At the center, always location, and destination. The middle of something, or someone.

Bonsai Cox

The LGWG is convinced that Monterey has the commitment, knowledge, and resources to ensure the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. We believe that this requires the collective efforts of town officials, the conservation commission, the fire department, the Friends of Lake Garfield Association, lake property owners, residents, anglers, environmentalists, swimmers, boaters, and artists. Together, we have the capacity to protect a town treasure for generations to come. The Lake Garfield survey is intended to lay a foundation for further engagement and results will be summarized in a future *Monterey News* article.

Future Possibilities

In considering possible future endeavors of the LGWG, the following were discussed:

- Fostering greater liaison with the Friends of Lake Garfield and other groups interested in Lake Garfield;
- Diversifying funding streams for Lake Garfield health management;
- Interpreting the ongoing nutrient-loading study results and implications;
- Developing a multiyear systems strategy and approach; and
- Engaging in exchange and learning with individuals and groups carrying out health management strategies in other bodies of water in Monterey, such as Lake Buel, Stevens Lake, and Benedict Pond.

This article is presented by the Lake Garfield Working Group, a Town of Monterey committee charged with helping sustain Lake Garfield, a town treasure. Meetings of the LGWG are open to the public and are held at the town hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, at 7 p.m.

—Dominic Stucker
Lake Garfield Working Group

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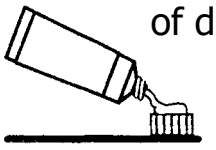


528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Just Right

"American Exceptionalism" seems to have lost some of its luster in recent times. Once, Americans had little doubt that we stood head and shoulders above every other country, ranked number one in a host of national measurements, the rest of the world lagging behind, conceding our pre-eminence. In recent years, however, the news is not nearly as uplifting. Surveys of one sort or another, whether relating to educational attainment, health outcomes, "happiness," infrastructure quality, office holding by women, etc., have left the US off the pace, absent from the ranks of the world's leaders.

Upsetting, yes, but let's not overlook one category in which the United States does stand alone; is indisputably exceptional, advantageously so. Did you know we are the only nation in the world (of over two hundred countries) that fully supports a population at the 300 million-plus level (approximately 325 million at present)? China and India are both out of sight (well beyond a billion each) and such notable nations as Germany (80 million), France (64 million), England (65 million), Russia (143 million) don't even come close (not to mention Canada at 36 million). Indonesia, the only serious contender at 260 million, remains well behind.

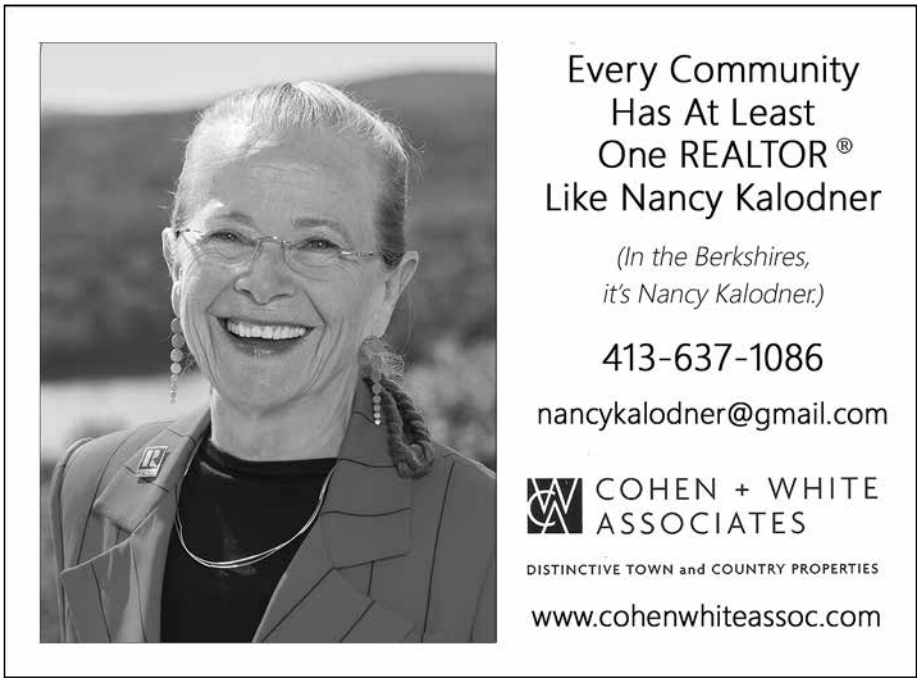
So, what does it mean to stand alone with 300+ million people (the world's third most populous nation)? It might be a problem if we occupied a small land mass, but of course we don't. There's plenty of room here, an abundance of territory upon which to grow all the foodstuff that we could possibly need. We have both the space and the population to occupy it (and with plenty of room to spare, since we're well down on the world list of population density). Our large numbers have allowed us to establish numerous major cities that dot the land (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, Atlanta, San Francisco, Dallas…). Most nations, on the other hand, have one dominant urban center and, after that, a limited number of cities of consequence.

Take 325 million people and mix in a huge economy (a GDP approximately $20 trillion), and it's no wonder that we have the world's largest middle class (it has been that way for some time). Sure, there's China and India's surging middle classes, but in terms of possessions and lifestyles, they can't compare to the way millions upon millions of Americans live. Here there's massive materialism—the buying power of Americans is enormous. That's why it's so natural to "think big" here. Devise a winning product or service and you can sell it by the millions. What better incentive for creativity and invention could there be?

The leverage of large numbers, somewhat surprisingly also benefits the less well off, those suffering. In America, millions are afflicted in one way or another. Their advocates—those requesting substantial government appropriations or seeking generous private donations—can cite compelling numbers that confirm the urgency of the situation. Diseases of various sorts affect millions, while the sheer numbers of disabled veterans, orphans, the blind, crippled, drug addicted, homeless, etc., are such to stir even the most hard-hearted.

So, next time you're deep in discussion about "American Exceptionalism," don't overlook our unique population size. It's an achievement of which Americans can be rightly proud. Not too big—not too small, but just right.

—Richard Skolnik



Safe Boating
MA Boating Regulations

The Friends of Lake Garfield would like to remind everyone about Massachusetts safe boating regulations. These rules help to promote the safety of everyone, and help to conserve the lake environment.

- No one under twelve years of age may operate any motorboat, unless accompanied onboard by an adult (18+). Ages twelve to fifteen can, but only if they have passed an approved safe boating course or if accompanied by an adult.
- No one under the age of sixteen may operate a personal water craft (PWC). No exceptions.
- Be courteous to non-powered boats as they have the right-of-way.
- No watercraft shall be operated recklessly or dangerously.
- No water skiing/boarding/tubing without at least two people in the boat (driver and spotter).
- Always travel in a counterclockwise direction when pulling a skier/rider and at other times when possible.
- No operating a motorboat or PWC within 150 feet of any swimmer, waterskier, dock, float, or mooring area, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way. If you must do so, no operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph).
- No water skiing/boarding/tubing on the smaller western portion of the lake.
- No wake in the channel and no operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph).
- A skipper is responsible for damage caused by his/her wake, so reduce speed when appropriate.
- U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests are required for each person.
- No operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Report all unsafe boating activities to the Monterey Police (528-3211). Try to get the registration number of the offending boat.

For more information about Massachusetts safe boating regulations go to: boat-ed.com/ma/handbook.

—Friends of Lake Garfield

P.O. Box 9
Time to Re-think Open Burning?

I'm sure brush burning has been a long-standing tradition that has continued in Monterey for many years. But when it's proven that a tradition creates health, safety, and environment hazards, it's time to re-evaluate. Burning yard waste such as leaves, grass, and twigs is a bad idea for many reasons, as the smoke poses a threat to human health and the environment, and often results in dangerous wildfires. Composting is a better option, as it returns helpful nutrients and carbon to the soil. Certainly, Monterey should be a leader in climate change initiatives and I would ask that the select board take up the issue of the banning of brush burning, as many towns and states have done. There are many more reasons to change this practice as reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Centering

3. At the center, always
a promise,
a fragrance,
a vow.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Bonsai Cox

Air Pollution

Burning yard waste releases a number of harmful substances that affect human health, including carbon monoxide, dioxins, ozone-forming chemicals, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter. The Washington State Department of Ecology notes that smoke from burning yard waste can be just as harmful as cigarette smoke. Even more chemicals are released when burning damp yard waste, as the waste burns more slowly. Some people experience asthma attacks or other respiratory issues as a result of exposure to the smoke, which is particularly harmful for the elderly, the young, and people with conditions such as emphysema or bronchitis. In some cases, toxins remain in the human body for many years.

Soil and Water Pollution

Smoke rises and rainfall cleanses the air, washing smoke particles onto the ground where they are eventually filtered through the soil and into the water supply. The water enters rivers, lakes, and wetlands, where it creates an unhealthy habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Hydrocarbons and other pollutants often foster the growth of green algae, which chokes out other marine life. In areas with porous soil, polluted water may affect the drinking water and the food supply.

Wildfire Danger

Burning yard waste creates a risk of dangerous home and forest fires, as yard fires get out of control quickly and are difficult to contain, especially on a breezy day. Fire danger is increased during late spring, when dead, dry foliage remains on the ground from winter, and in summer when grass and weeds are dry and brittle. The cost of suppressing uncontrolled fires is high for local government, fire districts, and homeowners.

Alternatives

Composting is an effective, environmentally safe way to recycle yard waste, and the compost is used to improve lawns, vegetable gardens, and flower beds, or it is applied as a mulch around shrubs and trees. Generally, compost consists of not only yard waste, but kitchen waste such as eggshells, coffee grounds, and vegetable peelings. Many communities offer composting programs, including convenient curbside collection bins or drop-off programs. Yard waste such as twigs and leaves can be chopped up with a lawnmower and used as mulch on lawn or around shrubs and trees. For larger branches, chippers are available for rent, but letting them decompose over time on the ground is effective as well.

—Robert Johnson

Community Center News

The Monterey Community Center is seeing regular use now by several groups each week, but there is plenty of room in the calendar for your group to meet, your class to get together, your club to convene, and so on. Our own program committee will be announcing our first activities and events soon.

To see what's on the calendar now, visit our website, ccmonterey.org/calendar. On the calendar you can click any event to open a small popup window with details, times, contact info, etc.

To book the MCC for your event or activity, please email calendar@ccmonterey.org, or call 413-528-3600 and leave a message. Either way, our event coordinator will get back to you promptly.

Your meetings and activities are welcome as long as they fit in the schedule with other reservations. For Monterey residents, landowners, and groups, there is no cost for booking the space for public and private activities, though donations are always appreciated. If your event is commercial in nature there will be a small charge.

Monterey Farmers Market

Beginning June 6

The Farmers Market opens Tuesday, June 6, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the newly opened community center at 468 Main Road. We have more Monterey vendors this year including Blue Dragonfly Farm's duck eggs, Monterey Maple, Monterey Chèvre, and produce from Kitt and Hannah's gardens. Hanna Jensen will be back with tons of sweet and savory treats, including her crowd pleasing granola and rugelach. Tom Brazie will be back with eggs, whole chickens, sausage, and more. We plan to have more vendors, and more lovely delicious surprises!

New from last year's market, there are bathrooms available inside the community center. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the community center an inviting, exciting place to gather with our Monterey neighbors.

— Hannah Bracken

Kundalini Yoga

Living Your Life to the Fullest

Kundalini yoga has arrived at the Monterey Community Center. Kundalini yoga helps you to connect to a deeper pulse of one's life force. Through a series of carefully designed postures, breathing techniques, and meditations, you open up to new possibilities and a fuller life.

In this time of ever-increasing pressure, challenges, and stress, yoga and meditation are no longer a luxury, but an important part of life. We upgrade our phones and computers, why not upgrade ourselves? Previous yoga experience is not necessary.

The fee is $10 per class and part of this is donated back to the community center. Class is every Monday morning from 10 to 11:30. Yogi tea is served at the end of class. Email me at susancain9@gmail.com, or phone with any questions at 203-249-8958. Preregistration is appreciated, but not necessary.

— Susan Cain

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The Pretty Committee

Have you noticed flower boxes in Monterey?

Many towns in the Berkshires have a committee or an organization to beautify their town. Last year this was initiated here by a few people who wanted to help begin this project.

You will notice that the library, the community center, and the church have been "prettied up."

If you are interested in joining the Pretty Committee, please email Susan Cain at susancain9@gmail.com.

A meeting will be held at noon, on June 13, at the community center, to review what is happening, what is presently needed and possible future plans.

—Susan Cain

Summer Croquet Anyone?

On a sunny fall day, eight friends, all members of the Monterey community, met to play croquet. The event was so successful, they decided that croquet should be played regularly, and Sunday Community Croquet was born.

The Monterey Community Center has an ideal section of lawn for the course. Won't you join us on Sundays at noontime this coming summer? We'll be there if the weather's fine. If not, look for a croquet set inside. Bring a picnic, spend a couple of hours playing, or simply visit with friends and neighbors.

—Maggie Barkin

Monterey
farmers market
Tuesday's from 4-6 pm
at the Monterey Community Center
Starting June 6th, 2017!!
On route 23 just past the center of town.
There will be:
local meats, chicken and duck eggs, local cheese, vegetables, baked goods, handmade soaps, syrup, jams and more!

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

While looking for a different photo, I came across this one from August 2009 when what is now the community center was getting a new roof. What a transformation.

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Creative Writing Group

The Gould Farm Creative Writing Group will host a monthly writing group at the Monterey Community Center. We started on May 25, and will continue on Thursdays June 29, July27, and August 31. We will practice in-session writing exercises, and afterwards writing suggestions will be encouraged from month to month. Feel free to bring any prose or poetry you have written in the past or are currently working on.

You will have a chance to read your work and get encouragement from others. This will not be a critiquing group, but rather an opportunity for giving and receiving positive feedback from both new and experienced writers. The writing group will begin around 7:45 p.m., and will usually last about an hour. If you have any questions about the group, please contact Mark Murray at mmurray@gouldfarm.org, or call 413-429-6154. We look forward to hearing your work.

—Mark Murray
Gould Farm

Singing Workshop

Vikki True

The Monterey Cultural Council is very excited to be sponsoring a six-week summertime singing workshop. The one-and-only Vikki True will lead the weekly workshops, with her accompanist, Peter, on the keyboard, and there will be some drumming as well. There will be a culminating concert with all participants together, in August.

The workshops will begin on Tuesday, July 11, at 7 p.m., in the community center.

If you love to sing or love to hum, this is the perfect workshop for you. All are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Mary Makuc and she will sing you up, oops, I meant "sign you up." You can also sign up by calling 528-3600 and leaving a message, or by emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

This event is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

—Wendy Benjamin
Monterey Cultural Council

See page 27. Photos by Bonsai Cox

As Edith Wilson's house has gradually become the Monterey Community Center, there have been many individual touches donated willingly to the project. Some of these are invisible now, such as grunt labor to remove old plaster and lath; others produced serviceable and pleasing physical items that we will use for decades, such as the installation of the red oak flooring. Among these are the contributions of Stephen Moore, neighbor to the center, whose first project for us was to reproduce the classic setting of the original door to the house in the west wall (facing New Marlborough Road). He took photographs and measurements before the wall was demolished, and then reproduced the structural and decorative elements. The exterior window casings are his, as are the beaded interior window and door casings. When you come into the center, you will surely notice right away Stephen's largest gift to us all—the fireplace surround. One mark of the craftmanship involved in its design and construction is how simple it looks, even though there were no simple aspects to turning those white pine boards into what you see in this photograph. It looks in place even as it dresses up the marble hearth and fireplace. It supplies a welcoming elegance. As it ages gracefully (like the rest of us!), generations of Monterey folks will enjoy its warm and stately presence.

—Joe Baker, for the Monterey Community Center

Proposed Budget FY2018
Tax Impact

The proposed fiscal year 2018 budget represents an overall increase of $390,030 (approximately 8%). The board and finance committee worked diligently to keep the town's operating expenses almost level funded, but budget items out of our control such as the school operating, transportation, and capital expenses are included in the total budget. Approximately $300,000 of the overall increase are items that we have debt-excluded, such as the fire truck loan payment, transfer station loan payment, etc. These items are not factored into our levy on which the tax rate is calculated.

The actual difference in this year's levy and last year's, the number the tax rate will be based upon, is $63,358, if all the articles on the town meeting warrant pass—an increase of less than 2%). This was accomplished by working with all the departments to request only what was needed and by using our free cash responsibly.

If everything is approved at town meeting, we will still have $106,733 in free cash available through June 30, 2017, we will have $964,122.60 in our general stabilization fund, and $60,000 in our bridges, roads and culverts stabilization fund, remaining well under our maximum allowable levy limit.

—Monterey Select Board

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Knox Gallery June News
Nancy Johnson: Re-Psychled

Nancy Johnson: Re-Psychled, opens at Knox Gallery on Friday, June 9, with a reception on Saturday, June 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please join us for the evening.

In Johnson's featured series, *Re-Psychled*, the artist employs found objects such as pieces of metal and wood. She welds, carves, chisels, wires, and bolts the materials to form assemblages, thereby altering damaged materials into an original creation.

The artist compares her art-making process to that of her work in the field of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy, where she works with people of all ages and backgrounds to discover new and different aspects of themselves and their lives.

With no formal training in art, the artist states, "I have always loved playing with materials that caught my eye and suggest a potential for becoming something else." She cites her grandfather's (C. Fayette Taylor) painting and sculpture as an influence, "having breathed it in throughout my childhood years."

Johnson's work has been shown at the Maud Morgan Gallery in Cambridge and at an arts festival in the Berkshires, and she is a frequent entrant in the Knox Gallery community exhibitions. She offers, "It is in the woods of Monterey that I have my studio overlooking Lake Garfield, my sanctuary where I can retreat into a space that allows me to play again. I am thrilled to have the opportunity of my own show, back here at the Knox."

Above: Nancy Johnson in her Monterey studio. Below: Fish.

Nancy Johnson: Re-Psychled will be on view through July 22, which is one week before the annual book sale, on July 29. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/

452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Bidwell House Museum
June and Early July Events

June 4: Birding Beyond Your Backyard. Free. 9 to 11 a.m.

Join Doug Bruce and Tom Ryan as they lead participants on a bird tour of the Bidwell grounds. Designed for beginning birders who would like to expand their birding knowledge, this talk and walk will help take you from feeder birds (blue jays, chickadees) to the birds of field and forest. Can't tell a robin from a crow? No shame—they will show you how to do it. After just one walk you'll amaze your friends with cheap birding tricks. This walk is all about birds of the upland forest—you will walk the trails on Bidwell's 192 acres of beautiful hemlock-hardwood forest. Footing is good with only very moderate elevation changes. Wear good shoes, bring water, and a snack. Co-sponsored by the Hoffmann Bird Club, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and DCR Service Forestry.

June 17: Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

What treasures lie outside the Reverend's door? Professor Eric Johnson, director of archaeological services at UMass, Amherst, and Kerry Lynch, senior archeologist, discuss the planned archaeological investigation at the 1760s homestead, how this work is done, and examples from other 18th-century homes.

July 1: History Talk: Massachusetts–New York Border "Wars" in the 1700s. Gary Leveille, Berkshires historian and author, on the fifty years of boundary battles among the early Dutch and English settlers on both sides of the elusive border. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road,

July 8: Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day. 1 to 4 p.m. A community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Everyone is invited. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon including:

- Live music by local musicians, including Moonshine Holler and the Adams Brothers
- 18th century re-enactors
- Crafts, games, and face-painting for kids
- History talks
- Food and drinks
- Craft demonstrations
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend a fun afternoon at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. The event is free, thanks in part to the support of grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils, and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.

Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

August 5: The summer garden party will be on August 5, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Fiddletop, Bill Brockman's home, on Wellman Road, Monterey. Save the date.

Do you like to plan parties and have fun? Please join the gala party committee! Contact co-chairs Maggie Barkin at mbarkin@snet.net, or Linnea Grealish at linnea1027@comcast.net. We would love to have you!

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The museum is a non-profit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship, and enjoyment of the landmark site.

The Museum, located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey, is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays), from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Labor Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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History Test

February nights are long and dark.
The days are short and cool.
It was also testing time
When I was in school.

Supper had been cleared away.
The lamp was turned up high.
A pan of apples close at hand.
Books were opened with a sigh.

Soon I was lost in distant lands,
On burning sand and blazing sun.
With honored men of honored deeds.
And victories they had won.

He cut the Gordian knot.
Marched across Persia land.
Under the Cambridge elm he stood.
And said, I take command.

A lonely man at Gettysburg,
With misty eyes did say.
Today we bless these honored dead,
Oh what a price to pay.

This nation shall be one.
All men shall be free.
We cannot turn away,
We must face our destiny.

The lamp is burning low,
The apples too, are gone.
I just sat there thinking,
of those who made our country strong.

So if today we feel despair,
Throw up our hands and cry alas.
Please remember all of those,
Who took the test and passed.

—Sheldon Fenn

at the bath

lilacs dripping, drooping
not unhappily
rather joyously
in the soft cool May rains
like young women, old girls
hair down and undone
at the bath
yearning to be taken in
warmed
and loved.

—Boney Oscar

The Perturbation of my Paddle

As I move down the misty lake
A snapper, all snout and eyes,
Breaks the surface, hastily withdraws.
Farther on, another does the same.

Did they come, having heard
The perturbation of my paddle,
Thinking it might be ducks
With whom they could have
Interesting dietary business?

Shortly after, I overtake
A small mallard flotilla,
Two parents and only two ducklings.
So vulnerable to underwater predation,
Where are the others?

—David McAllester

P.O. Box 9

Hume's Exemption

Regardless of an institution's or organization's standing in a community like Monterey, it is incumbent on that organization to respect the nature of the community. Camp Hume, being exempt from Monterey's bylaws, is taking full advantage of this exemption, expecting the town to foot the bill for road repairs and expansions of our town's roadways. Heavier traffic with the resulting wear and tear and noise is a burden on all the taxpayers of this town. In addition, it is going to change the nature of a town that needs to preserve the peace and beauty that brought so many people here, newer and older residents alike.

I think that Hume needs to step back and expand their vision to include all of the residents of this community, as they continue to grow and place a burden on each and every one of us.

—Marc Gordon
Monterey

Monterey Water Company Centennial

In its infancy the Monterey Water Company was called the "Neighborhood Club." The incorporation took place in July 1917. Here is an excerpt from the original minute book dated August 30, 1915.

"A meeting was called in back of Mr. Tryon's market to discuss Mr. Francis water privilege, as he was allowing Mr. Van Burk to take water from there.

"Voted to charge Mr. Francis $2.00 extra for Mr. Van Burk's privilege. The club had already agreed to let Mr. Francis have water under conditions for $5.00 for the summer months.

"At this meeting it was said Mr. Stedman, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Clark, also Mr. Barnum would like water but no definite answer was given.

"When Mr. Francis received his bill with additional for Mr. Van Burk, he objected very strongly and the directors allowed him the $2.00 but he must stop letting his neighbors have water."

Next month—the club has a party!

—Steve Pullen

Stephen Moore

Just a reminder that there are four more fishing derby days at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery this year. They run on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30, for children thirteen and under. Mark your calendars for June 10, July 8, August 19, and September 9.

The hatchery makes sure there are plenty of small fish for the small fishers to catch. It's free, and there are prizes too. If you're missing your grandchildren, go on down and feast your eyes on other people's children having a grand time!

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From the Meetinghouse
Star Light, Star Bright

So many stars in the sky, and now the nights are turning warm enough to comfortably stay out and spend some time with them. You already know the Big Dipper, right? It's fun to know and name the constellations. But it's fun to explore the night sky in other ways, too.

When my birthdays still had single digits, nothing that was permanently up there was man-made. We had planes and helicopters—it wasn't that long ago—but no satellites; no deep-space probes. The third-brightest night sky object was the planet Venus. Now it's the International Space Station.

The night sky was darker, too. But even my bone-marrow-deep childhood memories couldn't compete with the star-studded dark skies that I stood under when I was in rural Chile.

I'd said goodbye to the Dipper and Orion, on a clear, shimmering winter night in 1983, after a deep snowfall. The only constellation I knew to look for on the other side of the world was the Southern Cross. Looking forward to that was exciting, but I felt a little at loose ends as I said goodbye to my lifelong sky companions.

Those first twelve hours in Santiago were a blur of bright blue skies, Spanish language, men and women wearing blues, grays, white, or neutrals. I saw people with guitars slung over their backs, and uniformed men with machine guns over their backs, or in their hands. After a few hours of sleep, and dinner, I went to the train station.

My seat on the night train from Santiago to Temuco was next to a window on the right side of the train. The windows were covered with metal sliding shutters. They stayed closed until the train left the city. But when the shutters were opened, there it was—the Southern Cross, shining right into my eyes. My heart swelled with gratitude for this new night-sky friend. The train tracks ran pretty much straight south, so that comforting constellation stayed in sight every time I opened my eyes.

In the morning, I settled into my home away from home, a farm near Temuco. It was on the side of the Tolten River without any electricity. That night, standing on land that made southern Berkshire County look as urban as Tokyo's Ginza Strip, I was first stunned at the sheer number of visible stars, so countless many more than we see in the Northern Hemisphere. Then I turned to the north and felt my mind expand to take in the immensity of what I saw. Just above the northern horizon stood Orion. I was literally halfway around the world, and he was still with me.

Mary Kate Jordan

So many stars in the sky. So many stars on the tree, too. This one's a beauty, stitched by Dianna Downing.

No, I'm not going to rant about stargazing in the good old days north, or south, of the equator. The night sky is still beautiful, exactly as it is, right here and now in Monterey. I've mellowed a bit; even tracked the space station as it orbits overhead. You can, too. Just type "track the space station" in the search function next time you're online. Sign up for email notifications. When it's in visible range, they'll let you know what time, and in what part of the sky, to look.

Or you might want to go the very old-fashioned route. Lie down on a blanket under a clear night sky this summer and identify—that is, make up—some new star pictures. Give your personal constellations names. Tell stories about them. Isn't that how the "real" constellations and their mythology got stated?

Or just go slightly retro. That's you, a clear view, and a guide to the night sky (paperback, hardcover, or app). If you're using a book, and if you can find anything as esoteric as cellophane, cover a flashlight with red cellophane. That way, you'll be able to see the book without white light interference.

If it's dark and clear enough, you'll see the Milky Way. It's the signature of our home galaxy, the cutting edge of where we are as we look into the cosmos from Monterey. In a strange way, it's kind of like looking into a mirror. Here we are, looking up. Here's what we can visually recognize of our solar system home, looking down.

Any way you decide to do it, get outside on these clear summer nights. Have fun. Enjoy the way the sinuous, visual edge of our galaxy, and all it contains, reflects back to you from our beautiful night skies.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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The Burble of the Buffalo Bird

Buffalo birds are courting, and when you see the male tip up his golden brown head, fluff his dark back feathers, spread the wings a little, and fan his tail, you are in for a musical thrill. Some have described this song as "glug, glug, glii," but this does not do it credit. Maybe the technical details will help. This is from the writing of Donald Kroodsma, in his *Backyard Birdsong Guide* (Chronicle Books, 2008).

"The male cowbird's song is one of the most remarkable among birds. He typically begins with a pair of liquid, exceptionally low phrases, reaching lower than middle A on the piano (down to 300 Hz), and within a hundredth of a second can jump with his other voice box to well over twice the frequency of the highest note on a piano. He ends his song with a series of pure, slurred whistles, still so high that they challenge human hearing. Each male has four or more different songs in his repertoire, each traversing this extreme scale by using the left voice box on the lower sounds and the right on the higher."

Kroodsma's book includes a playing device, and no doubt many folks have a birdsong app on a computer-related gadget, or at least a venerable vinyl LP that came with a field guide. I recommend the bird himself. He is singing away and this is a multi-media presentation, including live video, and all the spring day outdoors.

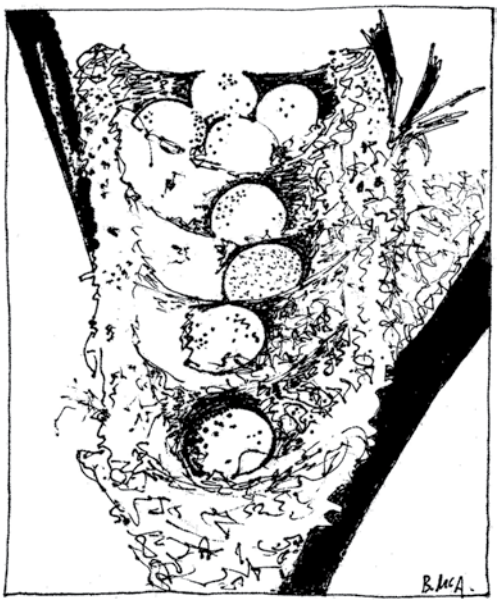
These birds have several names: cow blackbird, cowbunting, lazybird, brown-headed cowbird, *Molothrus ater* (Greek for greedy, and Latin for black), and then buffalo bird. Henry Thoreau called them cow troopials, and I tracked this down as his correct understanding that they are related to the blackbirds, and involved with cows.

The cowbirds are involved also with buffalo, horses, or any grazing animal that moves over the grasslands stirring up insects. Here is Thoreau's wonderful description from August 1885 in Concord, Massachusetts.

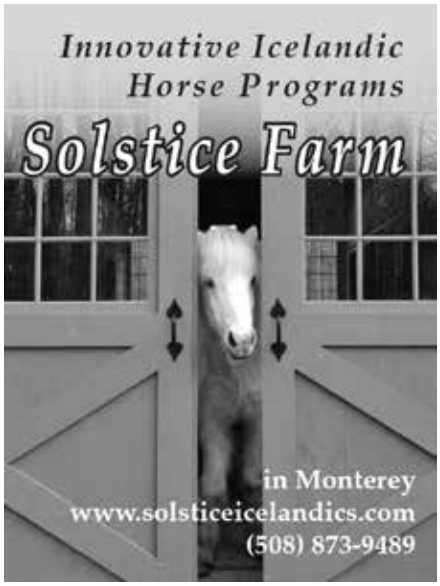
"In Dennis's field this side of the river, I count about one hundred and fifty cowbirds about eight cows, running before their noses and in odd positions, awkwardly walking with a straddle, often their heads down and tails up a long time at once, occasionally flying to keep up with a cow, over the heads of the others, and following off after a single cow. They keep close to the cow's head and feet, and she does not mind them: but when all went off in a whirring (rippling?) flock at my approach, the cow (about whom they were all gathered) *looked off after them* for some time, as if she felt deserted" (H. Thoreau, *Journal*, v. 7).

Cowbirds, or buffalo birds as I like to call them, are known for their highly successful way of carrying on their species. They burble and sing, they eat near cows or buffalo, and they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Most of what we hear or read on this behavior is peppered with the kinds of words I am sorry to hear anyone use in describing animals. These accounts can be moralistic, judgmental, anthropomorphic, and do not teach us anything about the animal, only about the speaker. I could rail on, myself.

One marvel is that cowbirds are the only passerine birds with no "regression of ovaries and oviducts" after laying a clutch of eggs. This translates just as you think. Most birds lay their eggs and then the equipment shuts down as incubation and child-rearing become the next order. Cowbirds can lay an egg very fast, in only a few seconds. Most birds their size take three to ten minutes, and geese take an hour or two. A cowbird female is an excellent observer. She watches other birds make a nest and then zips in to leave her egg and get out of there. Sometimes the host birds have already laid an egg or two. Some hosts, such as robins, catbirds, brown thrashers, and blue jays, are known as "rejectors." They recognize the interloping egg and throw it out. They do this by punching a small hole in the shell, making it easy to grip and toss. The buffalo birds will even try highly unlikely nests, such as those of herring gulls and ducks. Overall cowbird



Cutaway view of a five-story yellow warbler nest containing eight cowbird eggs. The warbler tried four times to build a new nest over the foreign egg. (After a photograph by W.W. Rich.)



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eggs have a poor survival rate, but since the ovaries and oviducts have not regressed, the birds can keep on laying continuously, as long as they can find an active host.

There is romance attached to the name buffalo bird, at least for me. Some writers tell us the birds once accompanied the great migrating herds of buffalo, riding on their backs or hopping about on the ground near them, gobbling down grasshoppers and everything else. They may even have relieved the buffalo of some flies or ticks. Some folks speculate that this traveling way of life lead to the leaving of eggs in nests along the way, where more sedentary adoptive parents would take care of them. The buffalo bird parents had to hit the trail with the herd, so nest-building behavior and baby-tending were lost through natural selection to fit a life on the road.

Now we find out there are cowbirds in South America who have never built nests or raised their young, and yet they also have never followed the buffalo. It is even true that a few female cowbirds in historic buffalo-country of the upper forty-eight have been seen feeding young cowbirds, though there's no way to know if these are their actual bio-kids. Despite these reports, we should feel free to enjoy our dreams about the buffalo birds and their liberated lifestyle. Edward Howe Forbush, the broad-minded State Ornithologist for Massachusetts, wrote this in 1926:

"Cowbirds are free lovers. They are neither polygamous nor polyandrous—just promiscuous. They have no demesne and no domicile; they are entirely unattached. Their courting is brief and to the point. In this pleasant pastime the male usually takes the lead. He erects his feathers until he is all 'puffed up' and struts with spread tail, and wings drooping or partly extended… The courtship is a happy-go-lucky affair… a brief union of congenial natures.

"The carefree cowbirds wander at their own sweet will with nothing to do but 'eat, drink, and be merry'" (*Birds of Massachusetts*, Norwood Press, p. 422). As I imagine the buffalo birds riding the range I can hear more than forbearance in Forbush's voice. I join him in a wistful longing for the open road, the buffalo bird in us all.

—Bonner McAllester

Contributions May 2017

Gratefully, we're still receiving contributions from readers in response to our annual appeal. Thanks for everyone's continued support and enthusiasm for our town journal.

Ray Norrell & Richard Pargament
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Friends of Lake Garfield
Summer Meetings

Here are the dates of the Friends of Lake Garfield meetings this summer. We'll meet at the town beach at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday mornings, June 10, July 8, and August 5. We'll be in the firehouse if the weather does not cooperate.

Will there be a MontereyFest this year? Will eurasian milfoil foil our summer boating, swimming and fishing plans? A grant? Did we get a state grant to help protect the health of the lake? Did Russia meddle with our presidential election? (Whoops! That will not be on the agenda.)

Join us on June 10 and get answers to all (or most of) these questions. Why not get out your refrigerator and tack up all three meeting dates.

—Hy Rosen
Friends of Lake Garfield

Steve Graves

Rookie baseball players ages five to seven, from Monterey, Otis, and surrounding towns, have stepped up to the plate for the 2017 baseball season played at Monterey's beautiful Greene Park. Enthusiastic future all-stars learn to hit, throw, catch, run, and the joys of team sports during weekly games on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. using tennis balls.

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Steve Graves

The 2017 Monterey Blasters baseball team started the season with games against Lee and Lenox players in early May at Monterey's beautiful Greene Park. The coach-pitched games produced lots of hitting, running, and excitement for the area's future all stars. The Monterey baseball program, established and administered by president Jim Edelman, celebrates its twentieth year of quality baseball activities with three teams for players five to twelve years old. Baseball activities continue through mid-June, followed by Saturday morning (11 a.m.) informal, free, pick-up "Boys of Summer" baseball in July and August, for players eight to eleven years old. For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

Steve Graves

The official start to the Monterey softball season attracted a full roster of players young and old to Greene Park for the traditional Memorial Day holiday weekend opening day. The field is in superb shape thanks to the work of the Monterey Parks Commission and the Gary O'Brien & Co. landscaping staff. Informal, co-ed, pick-up Monterey softball games are Sundays at 10:30 a.m . For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

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Our Lady of the Hills

The Roman Catholic church in Monterey, Our Lady of the Hills, will be open for Mass beginning Sat. July 1. The masses are every Saturday evening through the end of August. The eucharistic celebration begins at 7 p.m.

Yes, this is the tiny chapel with the stained glass angel, not far from Lake Garfield, at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be a lector, altar server, or help with the music, please arrive ten minutes early and speak with the celebrant.

—Mary Makuc

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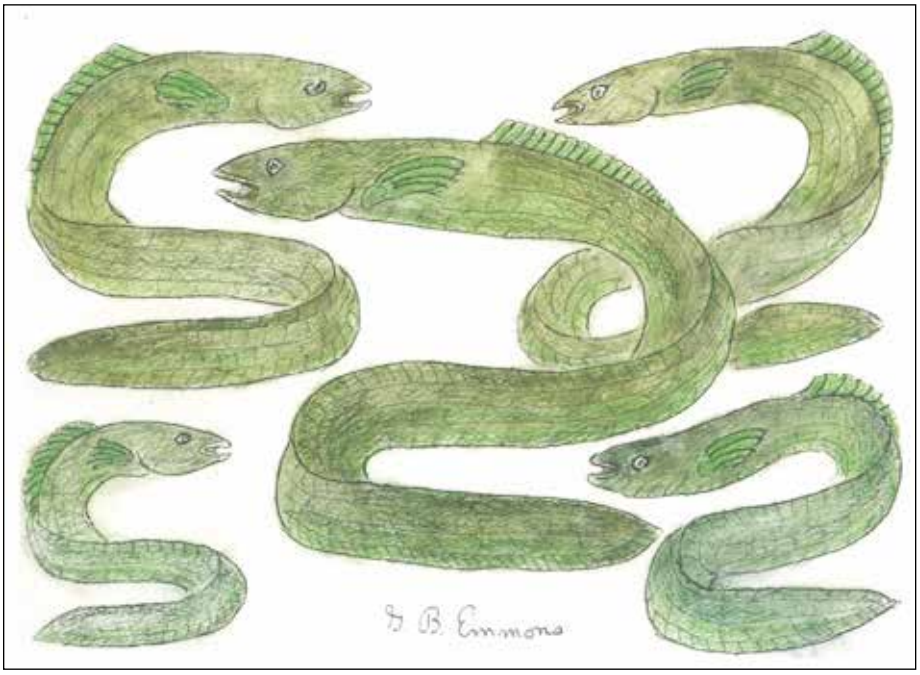
The Slippery And Contrary American Eels



"As slippery as an eel," is a commonly used phrase to apply a personal, despicable impression of a slimy creature upon a particular human being we do not like or trust. My unpleasant experience as a youth while fishing and trying to get an eel off a hook made such a lasting impression that I didn't want to catch an eel, or try to bait a hook with an eel to land a striped bass. Eels continue to represent poor characteristics to us due to the human practice of judging a book by its cover, because of how the eel's appearance, as it twists and turns like a snake while lubricating itself with slime, is seen as a contrary behavior, while, in fact, it is just trying to protect itself.

Naturalists have a different opinion, and value the eel as remarkably beneficial. It is highly rated as a vital evolutionary link in the aquatic food chain in oceans almost all around the world. No longer popular as a gastronomical gift from the waters in this country, eels are nevertheless still highly valued in most countries of continental Europe, Scandinavia, and throughout Asia. In New England, the eel was like the alewife—a godsend to hungry Mayflower survivors who, having survived their first winter in the Massachusetts wilderness, were taken by natives to nearby Eel Pond and shown how to tread in the mud and catch with their hands the fat, sweet, protein-rich eels, which would become a dietary staple like Boston beans and the codfish in colonial-era cookbooks.

The eel might also be said to be contrarian, as they follow migratory patterns opposite those of anadramous fish, including herring, by going in the opposite direction to spawn, from fresh water out to an expansive ocean voyage. After being in freshwater lairs anywhere from seven to twenty years, if the climate has somehow dried up the shallow channels to block their exodus, the oily covering of their bodies permits them to slither overland, providing it is paved with wet grass or moist mud. Once they are seaborne, they drift with ocean currents to the Sargasso Sea, an expanse of many million square miles between the West Indies and Azores, to spawn and spend the winter. There, after hatching, the young morph from tiny so-called elvers to immature silver eels, when they undergo remarkable physical changes, which can include changing sex.

The truly remarkable survival of eels in waters like Lake Garfield has profound ecological significance as survival roots for a species, and like many other aquatic species, the eel is a good barometer of the health of the ecosystem. Even as bottom-dwelling creatures, they have perhaps the most acute sense of smell of any earthly beings, as well as a remarkable ability to adjust their eyesight sensitivity to light and shadow, making them particularly sensitive to pollution or chemicals dumped by shoreline industry. Rachel Carson, in her book Silent Spring, wrote about DDT which caused eggshells to be so thin as to not survive to hatching. Her cautionary wisdom might be similarly applied below the surface, and perhaps be even more relevant, to underwater life for future generations. May the lowly eel survive through compatible human understanding and deserved appreciation of their place in our environmental heritage.

—George B. Emmons

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Police Report
Mid-April to Mid-May

Free Ranging Mammals

In a change from recent months, there were no reports of cow gatherings at Fairview and Main Road. There was a report of baby cows in Main Road, but none could be found. There was also a report of a cow loose on Main Road, which was returned. It's hard to say for sure whether she was a member of the Fairview Road Sorority. Someone told on a horse on Tyringham Road, but by the time the officer responded, the horse must've realized the error of its ways and had returned to its field.

A party called the police with concern for an animal crying in the woods. An officer responded to the area and heard a young animal, probably a coyote, calling for its mother. The officer advised the party that wild animals are best left alone. Not sure what the difference is between the "mother" call, and the "father" call, but I'm sure the baby knew.

There was yet another car-deer accident in the vicinity of Hayloft Art Studio. The deer was seriously injured, so the officer had to put it down.

Dogs—There was a brisk business in dogs this past month. Several calls from Pixley Road and Laurel Banks Lane area of loose dogs, and a call from Point Road for a missing dog. No report if the missing dog found its way back to its dinner bowl, but they usually do.

Free Ranging Chickens

An officer was dispatched to an area on Tyringham Road for a report of chickens in the roadway. Why did the chickens not cross the road?

Free Ranging Items

A report from River Road of a stolen sign. A party stated the sign was there at 2 p.m., but when he came back at 5 p.m. it was gone. Yup, a sign of the times.

A resident on Tyringham Road came to the office to report a Fiber Connect sign having been stolen from his property over the weekend.

Another party came to the office to report a Coleman canoe missing from the public rack, across from the town beach. It is a reddish-burnt-orange color, 16' long. It has two holes drilled into the angle support where there was a transom. Please let the police know if you find it.

An officer assisted a party on Bidwell Road who reported a boat tied to their docked. The officer was able to get enough information to locate the owner, who said they would come and get the boat.

Monterey police were asked to be on the lookout (BOLO) for a silver Chevy Silverado, heading toward Monterey from Sandisfield. The operator was suspected of stealing property from the pipeline site. The officer did not see the vehicle come this way.

Alarms

There were several mistaken alarms due to wrong codes by various people. And two that involved burnt breakfast foods. Some folks love burned toast, but usually that's intentional.

There were several medical calls that required calling for ambulance service.

Last month a husband was reported late coming home, but arrived as the officer was getting information. This month there was another report of an overdue husband. He was cutting firewood on Blue Hill Road. His vehicle was located, and the husband was found to be unresponsive. He was treated by Monterey Fire Department and transported to the hospital by ambulance. It's worth calling in on tardy husbands.

A carbon monoxide alarm was set off on Tin Can Point on Lake Buel. It was thought likely that the problem was the exhaust from a chainsaw that was being used trimming trees. If *your* CO alarm goes off, check for running chainsaws in your house.

Cars

At an event on Mt. Hunger Road an officer advised on possible locations for additional vehicles and limited parking to one side of the road, as far off the travel way as possible.

A vehicle with a defective brake light was stopped. It was discovered that the operator's out-of-state license was suspended. A passenger with a valid license was allowed to drive, and the original operator was charged.

There was a report of a vehicle parked in a road leaking gas. An officer responded to the location and the vehicle was towed.

A call came in on Benedict Pond Road for a vehicle that got stuck in a ditch doing a three-point turn.

Disputes

An officer was stopped on Main Road by the detail officer working in a tree-cutting zone. The detail officer was talking with a homeowner. The owner of the abutting property was complaining that trees were dropped on his seedlings. The officer talked with the foreman and then walked the area. The foreman said the owner had requested the wood, and for the pieces to be cut long. They laid each tree down by hand and were careful not to hurt the seedlings. The officer could see that this was true, and that no seedlings were damaged. When the officer returned to the road, the homeowner was gone. Judge Judy can rest easy.

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Wildlife Report
Mid-April to Mid-May

Toward the end of April, Ed Salsitz reported a visit from "our bear," which he describes as being on the small side, about like a medium-sized Rottweiler dog, and having a rusty brown nose. Ed wonders if it might be an adolescent. About this same time, Robert Johnson sent in an account and a photo of a small bear on Elephant Rock Road, walking up away from the lake. (See Julie Johnston's bear account on Cronk Road, page 29.)

Right at the beginning of May, Chuck Pierce wrote to say he and John Farrell had been watching the first scarlet tanager of the season in their feeder. This bird stayed for six hours! About the same time, Suzanne Sawyer reported the rose-breasted grosbeaks were back at her place, and there were two pairs in the feeder. See Shayna Sawyer's photos to the right.

Dianna Downing told quite a tale of a grey fox at their house, digging and digging in the yard late in the evening. The next day they went out to inspect and found the fox had been working on a chew toy belonging to the family dog, Django. It was a stuffed toy, and the fox took it apart, spreading stuffing all around, then dug earnestly for awhile and buried the remains.

Also early in May, Dale Duryea saw a young moose on the Flats early in the morning. Barnum Flats is the pasture and hay land east of Curtis road and Fairview Road, on both sides of Route 23.

Kyle Pierce called to tell of two eagles at Lake Buel, a male and a female. Female bald eagles weigh ten to fifiten pounds more than males, and some have a wingspan of eight feet.

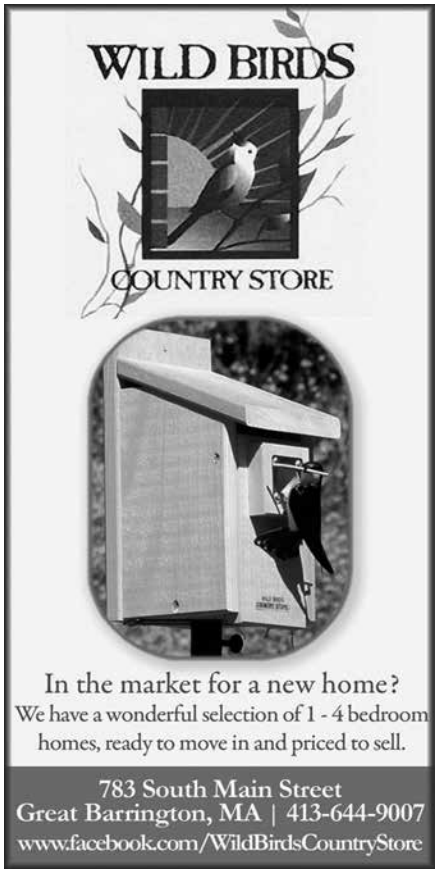
In the middle of May, Kit Patten was headed for the transfer station and saw "the tiniest, tiniest bear cub, about fifteen inches long." Kit didn't see any sign of a mother. Kit also reports the Baltimore orioles are back in the apple trees at his place on Fairview Road.

The Stucker Report

Here is the report from the Stucker boys, sent in by their father, Dominic. Animals are out in abundance! Some highlights of those spotted by Maddox and Tiegen Stucker include a Mothers' Day sighting of a Canada goose pair and their four goslings swimming on a wetland pond near Brett Road; numerous turkeys, four deer, and two porcupines along Blue Hill Road; a woodchuck running into its burrow along Wellman Road on Gould Farm, and the familiar porcupine, two sharp-shinned hawks, bluejays, chickadees, robins, juncos, goldfinches, squirrels, and chipmunks as breakfast and dinner company. They also saw a blue heron, two red-tailed hawks, and turkey vultures at Bartholomew's Cobble. Their father heard the local barred owls and saw a fox with prey in its jaws crossing Main Road near Barnum Hill late one night.

Thanks, all, for your news of the wildlife in these parts. Keep it coming! bonnermca@google.com or 528-9385.

— Bonner McAllester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Backyard perching birds (passerines), by Shayna Sawyer. Down from the top: goldfinch, purple finch, white-breasted nuthatch, female and male rose-breasted grosbeaks.

Photo Report from Stevens Lake - Bonsai Cox

We all know the rule, "Careful what you wish for." A few issues ago I put out a plea for photographs. Bonsai took up the challenge and I am now being greeted some mornings with lovely color images of wildlife and landscapes. Here is a collection of some of what she's offered. Please feel free to join her, and others. (By the way, the turkey and the head- and neck-scratching cows on page 14 are hers as well.)

Clockwise from top right, *Morning Blues over Stevens Lake*, an afternoon rainbow, a hairy woodpecker, an extremely rare grey squirrel on a deck railing, later that day..., and bloodroot in blossom.

Bear-ware
Clothesline Thief

I've been having an issue with this yearling cub. It keeps pulling my wash down off the line. It has happened many times now and it is ripping them with its claws. So I wrote this to help others to take warning.

Em-bear-ass-ing!

This clothesline thief comes in the day. While not wearing a mask—don't let that persuade you to be less concerned or disparage the nobility of his peer group. This thief seems to favor the softer, finer items like flannel sheets and bed throws. He drops the heavy jeans and sweatshirts but does leave his finger prints (and nail holes) just the same. Bear with me and I will tell you that we have had three bearish crimes in the past month and it's not pretty. I would suggest to you when you hang out your clothes, don't air out any pillows because he took my sheet and bed throw and may be looking for the pillow to make his bed complete.

My soft bed throw is still among the missing.

—Julie Johnston
90 Cronk Road

Later, Julie also reported that a bear (above) had stipped some bark off a small tree in her yard. As the strips were on the ground, she called Wards in Great Barrington for advice. They told her to put the bark back in place and hold it there with tape, changing the tape periodically, and it should graft back on.

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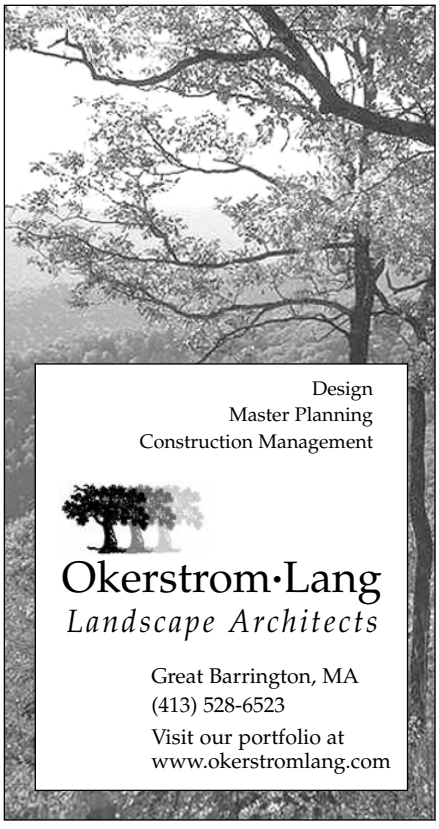

Bidwell House Museum
New Executive Director

Rob Hoogs, President of the Bidwell House Museum, announced the appointment of Heather Kowalski as the new executive director of the museum. On May 1, Heather will take over the director position from Barbara Palmer, who has served the museum as executive director for the past seven and a half years.

"I am excited to welcome Heather Kowalski to this leadership role. Heather has served as the assistant to the executive director for the past one and a half years," stated Hoogs. "She brings excellent leadership, passion for education about historic houses, and terrific museum expertise to this position." Heather worked previously at the Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Museum of Art, both in Pittsburgh, PA, prior to relocating to the Berkshires. Her husband, Jesse Kowalski, is Curator of Exhibitions at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

"At the same time, the board and I are very proud of Barbara Palmer on her appointment to be Associate Director for museum budget and operations at the Williams College Museum of Art," noted Hoogs. "She has been a consummate professional and we have been very fortunate to have her as director for all these years."

Barbara Palmer joined the board in congratulating Heather Kowalski. "I have worked closely with Heather, and I know the museum is in good hands," she noted. "Heather has been instrumental in the restoration campaign, and she is bringing superb professional expertise to the museum." Palmer also thanked the board: "I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead the Bidwell House and to build the museum's education programs and public visibility. Moreover, I am incredibly proud of the Bidwell board and the whole community for the successful – and still ongoing – restoration campaign for the historic buildings."

Alison Dahlman

Be sure to have your calendar marked for the last Saturday in July (July 29) for the annual fire company steak roast. The spuds above were being prepped for baking last year.

Steven Weisz

Early in May a "Healthy Cooking" demonstration was held in town hall. The town's insurance provider gives the town a premium credit for the opportunity to educate the town employees for healthier living. It may be that Shawn and Kevin were just hungry.

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, June 5 and 19, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga NEW LOCATION! at the Community Center: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, June 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: NEW LOCATION! at the Community Center: Mondays, June 12 and 26, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, June 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, July 13, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, June 7, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, June 8 and 22, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, June 7, 14, and 21, at 9 a.m., and Wednesday, June 28, at 3 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

May 6 was a fine day in the tradition of New England town meetings! Kind of long-winded, plenty of back and forth discussion (some would say arguments), a few loose ends left to follow up, good coffee, and locally baked doughnuts. It was a rousing reminder of who we are in Monterey as a community. We are, in fact, many communities, from the newly opened community center, now home to senior activities, workshops, classes, and a venue for graduation and family parties, to the down home atmosphere at the Roadside Store or quiet sophistication of the Harvest Barn. Gould Farm is surely a community, as is Camp Hume. The fire company is a community of volunteers dedicated to protecting and serving the townspeople. The Bidwell House is full of memories of our community's history. Then there's the shiny new transfer station, where you'll be greeted with friendly assistance and usually see a neighbor or two, to the daily hub at the post office, where we've exchanged gardening advice, directions to local egg suppliers and travel directions. The library received overwhelming support at town meeting; it's a community of book lovers, video borrowers, art patrons and internet browsers. The coffee club is a community dedicated to conversation and commentary on Monterey events. Greene Park is a lively community of baseball players and their families, softball players, and kids on the playground. The town beach is a community of swimmers, schmoozers, fishing and boating enthusiasts. And despite occasional challenges and criticism, our town hall is a community, where town officials, employees, and volunteer committees work day and night and do their best to make our community, Monterey, a great place to live.

—Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Late notice: Special Town Meeting

The select board will be meeting in early June to decide on a date for a special town meeting to reconsider the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget, which was voted down at the May 6 town meeting.

Maureen Banner

This may be a new reason for some people to stay to the back of the hall during town meeting. Thanks to the fire company for the hospitality.

Calendar

Every Sunday:

Adult Softball. Batting practice 10 a.m., games at 10:30. Greene Park.

Summer croquet, from noon on, at the community center. See page 13.

Every Monday: Kundalini yoga, with Susan Cain, 10 to 11:30 a.m. See page 12.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., community center. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Cards and Games, 12:30, community center. Sponsored by the council on aging.

Farmers Market, 4 to 6 p.m., community center. See page 2.

Sunday, June 4: Bidwell House: Birding Beyond Your Backyard workshop. Free. 9 to 11 a.m. 100 Art School Road. See page 16.

Tuesday, June 6: First Farmers Market this year. 4 to 6 p.m., at community center. See page 12.

Thursday, June 8: Berkshire VNA wellness clinic, 2 or 3 p.m., town hall, no appointment necessary.

Friday, June 9: Knox Gallery. *Nancy Johnson: Re-Psychled* opens. See page 15.

Saturday, June 10:

Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30, at Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. Kids thirteen and under. See page 18.

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 a.m., at the town beach. See page 22, including future dates.

Knox Gallery. Reception for *Nancy Johnson: Re-Psychled*, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 15.

Monday, June 12: Lake Garfield Working Committee meeting, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 9.

Tuesday, June 13: The pretty committee meets at noon, community center. See page 13.

Saturday, June 17:

Bidwell House: Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds, 10 a.m. 100 Art School Road. $10 for members, non-members $15. See page 16.

Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Fleeting Moments, calling by Sarah VanNorstrand. All dances taught. 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

Tuesday, June 20: *Monterey News* Deadline

Thursday, June 29: Creative writing group, 7:30 p.m., community center. See page 14.

Saturday, July 1:

Library summer program: Jim Snack, our favorite magician, 10:30 a.m. See page 8.

Bidwell History Talk: Massachusetts–New York Border "Wars" in the 1700s. Tyringham Union Church. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m. See page 16.

Our Lady of the Hills, first summer mass, 7 p.m., Beartown Mountain Road. See page 23.

Maureen Banner

The library board of trustees at town meeting: l. to r., Lisa Smyle, Beth Reiter, John Higgins, Mickey Jervas, and MaryPaul Yates, explaining the library expansion plans.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Town Administrator
528-1443 x119
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Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
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Fire Department (non-emergency):
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fire_service@montereyfire.org

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mhwy@verizon.net
Library: 528-3795 montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

July 8: Bidwell House Museum, Township No. 1 day.

July 16: Council on Aging trip to Waconah Park baseball game. See page 7.

July 29: Fire company steak roast.

August 5: Bidwell House summer garden party.

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Tuesday ... 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, pp. 7,12; Maureen Banner, pp. 26, 29;
George Emmons, p.24; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.

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